

REMARKS

The Claim Amendments

Claims 1, 2, 9, 12, and 32 have been amended to correct obvious typographical errors and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter Applicants regard as their invention. These amendments are made solely for the purpose of advancing prosecution and without prejudice or disclaimer of any subject matter of the originally-filed claims. Applicants reserve the right to re-present the original claims in this or a continuation application.

Claims 33-40 are new. Support for the new claims can be found throughout the specification, e.g., at pages 22-27 and in the claims as originally filed. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-40 will be pending. No new matter has been added.

The Claims

The claims, as amended, are directed to curable resin compositions, coating comprising such resin compositions, enzyme stripper compositions for the resin compositions of the invention, and methods for making the curable resin compositions of the invention.

As recited in amended claim 1, the curable resin compositions include an oligomer having one enzyme degradable segment selected from the group consisting of polycaprolactone, polyhydroxy butrate valerate (PHVB), polylactic acid, and copolymers and blends thereof. Claims 2-26, directed to curable resin compositions, directly or indirectly depend from claim 1 and therefore incorporate all the limitations thereof.

Claim 27 is directed to a coating comprising the curable composition of claim 1, and therefore includes the limitations of claim 1.

Claims 28-31 are directed to stripper compositions for the curable resins of the invention.

Claims 32-40 are directed to methods for making curable resin compositions including an oligomer having one enzyme degradable segment selected from the group consisting of polycaprolactone, polyhydroxy butrate valerate (PHVB), polylactic acid, and copolymers and blends thereof.

The Office Action

In the Office Action dated October 5, 2004, claims 1-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,977,269 to Kovar *et al.* (the '269 patent), under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,150,429 to Kovar *et al.* (the '429 patent), and 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,300,457 to Rubin *et al.* (the '457 patent). The Examiner evidently has taken the position that the disclosures of these patents inherently disclose the resin compositions of the present invention, in which the compositions include an enzyme-cleavable segment.

While Applicants do not agree with this position (as was noted in Applicants' response to the Office action mailed March 17, 2004), Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections clearly do not apply to the pending claims.

As noted above, the pending claims are directed to curable resin compositions including an oligomer having one enzyme degradable segment selected from the group consisting of polycaprolactone, polyhydroxy butrate valerate (PHVB), polylactic acid, and copolymers and blends thereof, and to coatings including such compositions, strippers for the coatings, and methods for making the compositions. While the cited references disclose resin compositions which include, *inter alia*, certain polyesters and certain vinyl dioxolane monomers, the references do not disclose compositions or coatings containing an enzyme-degradable segment of polycaprolactone, polyhydroxy butrate valerate (PHVB), polylactic acid, and copolymers and blends thereof, nor methods of making the same. Accordingly, the cited references cannot anticipate the pending claims.

Moreover, the cited references are silent as to the use of enzyme-containing stripper compositions, and therefore cannot anticipate the stripper compositions of claims 28-31.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is proper and such action is requested.

Conclusion

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that Claims 1-40 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application, therefore, is respectfully requested in response to this communication.

Applicants believe that additional fees are not required to complete the filing requirements for the subject application or otherwise in connection with this submission. However, if a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge/credit Deposit Account No. **04-1105**.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 7, 2005
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